IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor comprising an antibody to osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof.

2. (Original) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the antibody to osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is an antibody capable of inhibiting the binding between an integrin recognizing the site of amino acid sequence RGD and osteopontin or fragment thereof, and also inhibiting the binding between an integrin recognizing the site of amino acid sequence SVVYGLR and osteopontin or fragment thereof.

3. (Original) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is an N-terminal fragment of osteopontin.

4. (Currently Amended) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is a peptide that contains a peptide of the following (A):

(A) RGDSVVYGLR (SEQ ID: No.1)

5. (Currently Amended) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is a peptide that contains a peptide of the following (B):

(B) VDTYDGRGDSVVYGLRS (SEQ ID: No.2)

6. (Previously Presented) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to of claim 1, wherein the immunocompetent cells are NKT cells.

7. (Original) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the IFN-γ production by NKT cells.

8. (Original) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the MIP-2 production by NKT cells.

9. (Original) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 6, wherein said inhibitor inhibits the IL-4 production by NKT cells.

10. (Previously Presented) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the immunocompetent cells are neutrophils.

11. (Previously Presented) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the immunocompetent cells are T cells.

12. (Original) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 11, wherein T cells are $CD4^+$ T cells.

13. (Previously Presented) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claims 1, wherein said inhibitor inhibits Fas/FasL mediated cell injury.

14. (Previously Presented) The immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein said inhibitor inhibits neutrophil mediated cell injury.

15. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic agent for diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells, comprising the immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor of claim 1 as the active ingredient.

16. (Original) The therapeutic agent for diseases according to claim 15, wherein the immunocompetent cells are one or more types of immunocompetent cells selected from NKT cells, neutrophils and T cells.

17. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic agent for diseases according to claim 15, wherein the diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells are selected from hepatitis, asthma, arthritis, diabetes, lupus, multiple sclerosis, arteriosclerosis and lung fibrosis.

18. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic agent for hepatopathy, comprising the immunocompetent cell activation inhibitor of claim 1 as the active ingredient.

19. (Original) The therapeutic agent for hepatopathy according to claim 18, wherein the hepatopathy is viral hepatitis or drug-induced hapatitis.

20. (Original) The therapeutic agent for hepatopathy according to claim 18, wherein the hepatopathy is autoimmune hapatitis.

21. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic agent for hepatopathy according to claim 18, wherein said inhibitor inhibits necrosis of hepatocytes.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of diseases caused by activation of immunocompetent cells, characterized in administering the therapeutic agent of claim 15 to a patient.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for treatment of hepatopathy, characterized in administering the therapeutic agent for hepatopathy of claim 18 to a patient.